**Permission to Peasants to fell the Trees**

*109. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to allow the peasants to fell the trees of certain species in their fields;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Control on felling of trees on private lands is a subject under the jurisdiction of State Governments.

**Clearance to Projects in Maharashtra from Environmental Angle**

*110. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of development projects sent by the Maharashtra Government to the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years and out of those the number of projects which have been cleared so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the coming into force of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all the development work in that state has stopped;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to liberalise the said Act, especially for the tribal areas in Chandrapur and Garhchiroli districts, where percentage of forest land is more but the development work has been completely stopped; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS. (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) 1. The details of proposals received under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from Government of Maharashtra, during the last 3 years viz. 1987, 1988 and 1989 are as shown below:—

| | |
|---|---|
| (i) Total number of proposals received | 374 |
| (ii) Total number of proposals approved | 147 |
| (iii) Total number of proposals rejected on merit | 7 |
| (iv) Total number of proposls rejected for non-furnishing of information | 213 |
| (v) Total number of proposals withdrawn by the State Government | 5 |
| (vi) Total number of proposals pending in this Ministry | 2* (as on 31-3-90) |

*The details of 2 cases pending in this Ministry are as under :—

| Name of proposal | Present status |
|---|---|
| A. Diversion of 1.2 hectares of forest land in Raigarh district, Maharashtra for quarrying of stone. | The site inspection report has been received from CCF (Central) Bhopal recently. The proposal is being processed. |
| B. Diversion of 49.76 hectares of forest land in Buldhana District, Maharashtra for construction of Hiwarkheda III Minor Irrigation Tank. | The site inspection report is awaited from C.C.F. (Central), Bhopal. |

2. The details of proposals received from Government of Maharashtra duduring the last 3 years viz; 1987, 1988 and 1989 for environmental clearance are as shown below :—

| | |
|---|---|
| (i) Total number of proposals received . . . . | 7 |
| (ii) Total number of proposals approved . . . . . | 2 |
| (iii) Total number of proposals rejected for non-furnishing of information . | 4 |
| (iv) Total number of proposals pending in this Ministry . . . . | 1* |

*This is a proposal for Chandrapur Thermal Power Station, Unit-7, 500 MW, submitted in the year 1987. This project is under process of clearance.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Steps taken in May 1989 to ensure speedy disposal of cases under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are as below:-

1. Diversion of forest land for construction of buildings for schools, hospitals, dispensaries, community halls, co-operatives, panchayats, tiny rural industrial-sheds of government etc. which are to be put up for the benefit of the people of that area are now to be considered but such diversion should be strictly limited to the actually needed area and should not exceed one hectare in each case.

2. In hill districts and in other districts having forest lands exceeding 50 per cent of the total geographical area, compensatory afforestation on non-forest land is not insisted upon and is permitted on degraded forest land twice in extent of the area diverted provided forest land involved is less than 5 hectares and the purpose of diversion is for construction of link road, small water works, minor irrigation works, school buildings, dispensary, hospitals, tiny rural industrial shed of the government or any other similar work which directly benefit the people of the area.

3. Only those cases wherein forest area involved is more than 10 hectares are now referred to Arvisory Committee for its advice cases involving forest area upto 10 hectares are decided by this Ministry without referring those to the Advisory Committee. The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests have been authorised to clear proposals involving forest land less than one hectare.

**Hazards created by Chemical Effluents and the Solid Wastes in Tamil Nadu**

*111. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that chemical effluents and other solid wastes, including spurious cyanide solid wastes emitted by the industries particularly the tanneries, have caused steirlity of soil, affected standing crops and polluted water in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up mandatory pilot treatment plants in every district where such industries are thickly located in that State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the alternative steps proposed to be taken by Government to check pollution by effluents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to set up mandatory pilot treatment plants.

(c) All units discharging polluting effluents and hazardous wastes, are